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Implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015)

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is the thirty-fourth submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), paragraph 10 of Council resolution 2165 (2014), paragraph 5 of Council resolution 2191 (2014) and paragraph 5 of Council resolution 2258 (2015), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report, every 30 days, on the implementation of the resolutions by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. The information contained herein is based on the data available to United Nations agencies on the ground, from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, other Syrian sources and open sources. Data from United Nations agencies on their humanitarian deliveries have been reported for the period from 1 to 30 November 2016.

Box 1

Key points in November 2016

(1) Continuing fighting in Aleppo, especially the intensification of ground and aerial fighting in eastern Aleppo after 15 November, resulted in the deaths of hundreds and the displacement of tens of thousands of people by the end of the month. The United Nations developed a four-point plan early in November to conduct critical medical evacuations, provide health and medical supplies, provide food and other essential relief items and rotate doctors. Notwithstanding the best efforts of the United Nations and its partners, it was not possible to reach agreement among the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Russian Federation and non-State armed groups on the implementation of the plan.

(2) In November, four inter-agency convoys delivered assistance to 167,500 people in besieged and hard-to-reach locations, of a total of 904,500 people (19 per cent) requested under the inter-agency convoy plan. Six attempted convoys were unable to proceed to their mission areas owing to a combination of insecurity, political disagreements and lack of approvals at checkpoints.

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(3) Operations around Raqqah and Bab resulted in the displacement of some 11,000 people. It is estimated that more than 500,000 people are in need in those two areas. Displacement in Bab has been caused by clashes between non-State armed opposition groups and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), but Syrian government forces and the Syrian Democratic Forces have also moved closer to the city of Bab, with the possibility of further humanitarian need owing to conflict among the various parties.

(4) The United Nations and health partners received credible reports of 26 attacks against medical facilities, and the United Nations verified 4 attacks against educational facilities in November.

(5) On 22 November, the United Nations resumed life-saving humanitarian assistance to an estimated 85,000 stranded Syrians along the Jordanian-Syrian border. The deliveries are being channelled through a newly constructed distribution point. In addition, the construction of a new service facility that includes a health clinic, water tanks and a water-pumping station is under way.

II. Major developments

3. November saw a notable military escalation in the Syrian Arab Republic compared with previous months, which resulted in the death and injury of civilians and the destruction of civilian infrastructure. Hospitals and schools continued to be attacked regularly. Insecurity from the fighting remained a major factor limiting the ability of United Nations agencies and their partners to deliver much-needed humanitarian assistance. Heavy fighting continued nationwide, including in Aleppo, Damascus, Dayr al-Zawr, Hama, Idlib and Rif Dimashq governorates.

4. Aleppo remained a particular focus for humanitarians. Early in November, the United Nations developed a four-point plan to provide humanitarian assistance to besieged eastern Aleppo. The plan envisaged: (a) critical medical evacuations; (b) the provision of health and medical supplies; (c) the provision of food and other essential relief items; and (d) the rotation of medical personnel. Notwithstanding tireless efforts by all parties, verbal approval from the Russian Federation and a preliminary written agreement from the non-State armed opposition groups, it was not possible to reach simultaneous agreement with all parties on the implementation of the plan. The Russian Federation and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic also unilaterally declared a 10-hour cessation of hostilities on 4 November and on 25 November, when crossing points were opened for civilians and fighters from non-State armed opposition groups to evacuate from eastern Aleppo. There were no reports of the crossing points being used during those periods.

5. The need for humanitarian assistance increased during the reporting period, with the last World Food Programme (WFP) food basket (prepositioned before the besiegement of eastern Aleppo in July) being distributed on 13 November. On 15 November, a major offensive was announced by the Russian Federation, resulting in renewed bombing in eastern Aleppo. The ensuing ground and aerial offensive reportedly killed and injured hundreds and displaced an estimated 30,500 people over five days. Some 18,500 people have been displaced to government-controlled areas, 8,000 moved to Kurdish-controlled Shaykh Maqsud and thousands

moved to other parts of eastern Aleppo. Reports of the detention of people crossing into government-controlled areas on 28 and 29 November have emerged, and at least 45 civilians, including at least 15 children, were reportedly killed and dozens more injured by shelling on 30 November as they sought to cross into western Aleppo. Fighting continued to escalate throughout November and, by the end of the month, an area representing 40 per cent of besieged eastern Aleppo had been taken by the Government.

6. The situation in western Aleppo also deteriorated throughout the month as shelling increased, with hundreds of mortars killing scores of people. Significant displacement also constituted a major challenge for western Aleppo. The 18,500 newly displaced individuals from the east joined another 24,000 people displaced by the shelling in the west in the final quarter of November. The newly arrived brought the total estimated number of displaced persons in western Aleppo to 400,000 since the beginning of the conflict in 2011, with an estimated 77,000 residing in unfinished buildings or collective shelters.

7. On 22 November, the United Nations resumed life-saving humanitarian assistance at the berm on the Jordanian-Syrian border. Food and essential items were delivered on 22, 23 and 28 November. Following a brief suspension owing to insecurity and crowd control issues, delivery resumed on 30 November. In total, more than 7,000 people in the Rukban community received assistance in preparation for the winter months. The deliveries are being channelled through a newly constructed distribution point. In addition, a new service facility that includes a health clinic, water tanks and a water-pumping station is being constructed.

8. North of Aleppo city, a number of parties to the conflict advanced to within kilometres of the ISIL-controlled city of Bab, with the fighting resulting in further displacement of civilians. From 23 to 25 November, fighting on the outskirts of the city between the Free Syrian Army and ISIL is reported to have displaced an estimated 6,000 people, many of whom moved towards the nearby districts of Manbij and I'zaz. Syrian government forces and Syrian Democratic Forces are also moving closer to the city of Bab, with the possibility of further humanitarian need among the various parties. There are an estimated 150,000 people in Bab district, including 23,000 in the city itself, some 110,000 of whom have been assessed to be in need of humanitarian assistance.

9. Anti-ISIL operations also resumed north of the city of Raqqah on 6 November, resulting in the displacement of thousands. An estimated 5,000 people are currently displaced into territory around Ayn Isa, with the Syrian Democratic Forces having moved to within 20 km of the city of Raqqah. Following the fighting, some 3,000 people were able to return to their homes. There are also unconfirmed reports of people moving within ISIL-controlled areas. There are reportedly serious health and protection concerns for those escaping from ISIL-controlled areas, in particular women and children. More than 400,000 people are estimated to be in need in the city of Raqqah and the surrounding district.

10. After a number of local agreements were reached in October, the parties continued discussions in November with a view to reaching additional agreements. An agreement between the local committee in the besieged location of Khan al-Shih and the Government resulted in the evacuation of some 3,000 people to Idlib on 28 and 30 November. Serious health, protection and food security issues were reported to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), although humanitarian access continued to be denied to

the United Nations. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the agreement reportedly included the movement of all civilians to hosting centres near Khan al-Shih. Following a resumption of aerial bombardment in Wa'r, a five-day truce was reportedly reached on 29 November. In addition, discussions continued in Qadsayya and Tall.

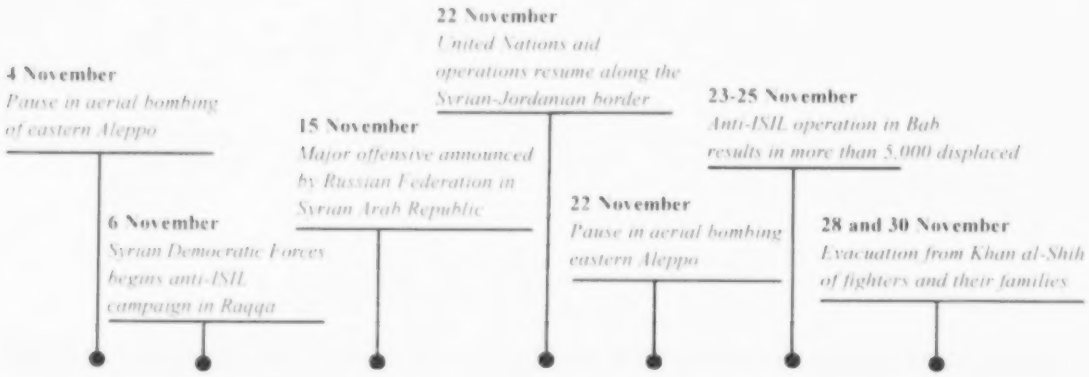
Box 2
Idlib governorate

(1) Since the beginning of the Syrian conflict, non-State armed opposition groups have been very active in Idlib governorate, a rural governorate east of Aleppo bordering Turkey (see map in annex). Idlib has direct access to Turkey through the Bab al-Hawa border crossing and various smaller unofficial border crossings. The population of Idlib is estimated to be around 2 million people, including 700,000 internally displaced persons.

(2) Idlib is currently the only governorate that is almost exclusively controlled by non-State armed opposition groups (with the exception of the towns of Fu'ah and Kafraya, which are besieged by non-State armed opposition groups). Idlib has been the destination of recent evacuees arriving from other besieged areas following local agreements, with more than 7,000 fighters and their families having moved to the governorate since late August (from Darayya, Mu'addamiyah, Qadsayya and Khan al-Shih).

(3) The governorate has also sustained significant fighting and attacks, resulting in the death of civilians and the destruction of civilian infrastructure. The frequency of attacks on schools presents such a risk to pupils across the governorate that all school activities were suspended on multiple occasions in the 30 days before 20 November. Attacks on hospitals have also been reported, with two having been attacked in November. In addition to aerial bombardment, attacks against the besieged towns of Fu'ah and Kafraya have also been reported.

Figure I
Key dates in November 2016


4 November
Pause in aerial bombing of eastern Aleppo
6 November
Syrian Democratic Forces begins anti-ISIL campaign in Raqqa
15 November
Major offensive announced by Russian Federation in Syrian Arab Republic
22 November
United Nations aid operations resume along the Syrian-Jordanian border
22 November
Pause in aerial bombing eastern Aleppo
23-25 November
Anti-ISIL operation in Bab results in more than 5,000 displaced
28 and 30 November
Evacuation from Khan al-Shih of fighters and their families

Protection

11. The protection of civilians has been consistently identified as a significant area of concern in all governorates, with some 13.5 million people in need of protection and assistance. Indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, especially against medical personnel and facilities and against schools, educational staff and school children, continued to be reported in November (see paras. 14-16). Threats from explosive ordnance and against women and the most vulnerable civilians, such as children, older persons or persons with disabilities, as well as other violations and human rights abuses, were also reported.

12. On the basis of information received by OHCHR, the killing of civilians and other abuses and violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law continued throughout the reporting period. Violence occurred in, inter alia, Aleppo, Raqqah, Damascus and Rif Dimashq, Dar'a, Dayr al-Zawr and Idlib governorates (see table 1). OHCHR documented attacks by all parties to the conflict, including government forces, non-State armed opposition groups and designated terrorist groups. In addition to the violations documented by OHCHR, the Government continued to provide OHCHR with information on alleged violations. In a note verbale dated 23 November, the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic provided OHCHR with a list of incidents that allegedly occurred in the period from 7 to 20 November in Aleppo, Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Dar'a, Dayr al-Zawr, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates. A total of 52 civilians were reportedly killed and more than 72, including women and children, were injured. Casualties resulting from mortars, rocket fire, sniper fire and improvised explosive devices were reported.

Table 1
Reported attacks against civilians, November 2016[a]

Date	*Location*	*Type of attack*	*Number of people killed, including women and children*	*Number of people injured*	*Infrastructure or site type*
Aleppo governorate					
4 November	Kafr Naha	Air strike	10, including 3 women and 5 children		Residential
5 November	Kafr Naha	Air strike	4	–	Residential
5 November	Darat Izzah	Air strike	9	Dozens	Residential
6 November	Darat Izzah	Air strike	11 children	Dozens	Residential
11 November	Kafr Da'il	Air strike	9, including 3 children	–	–
13 November	Salihin (Aleppo city)	Air strike	At least 11	–	Residential
14 November	Atarib	Air strike	3	–	Hospital

Date	*Location*	*Type of attack*	*Number of people killed, including women and children*	*Number of people injured*	*Infrastructure or site type*
16 November	Masakin Hannanu, Sakhur, Ansari, Shi'ar, Tariq al-Bab, Salah al-Din, Firdaws, Sukkari and Karm al-Bik (Aleppo city)	Air and ground strikes	At least 35, including 4 children	Unknown	Residential
19 November	Sakhur	Bomb (allegedly toxic)	6, including 4 children	–	Residential
20 November	Sakhur, Sayf al-Dawlah, Masakin Hannanu (Aleppo city)	Air strike	At least 29	At least 150	Residential and medical
22 November	Aleppo city	Air strike	8	–	–
24 November	Mashhad, Bab al-Nayrab, Sukkari and Maysan (Aleppo city)	Air strike	At least 35, including 2 children	–	–
27 November	Furqan (Aleppo city)	Ground strike	3, including 1 child	–	Residential
28 November	Halab al-Jadidah, Bab al-Faraj, Isma'iliyah, Furqan, Maysalun and Jabiriyah (Aleppo city)	Ground strike	7	32	Residential
29 November	Bab al-Nayrab, Salihin, Ansari, Karm al-Maysar, Karm al-Bik and Salah al-Din (Aleppo city)	Air strike	51	Dozens	–
30 November	Jubb al-Qubbah (Aleppo city)	Ground strike	At least 45, including at least 15 children	Dozens	–
30 November	Aleppo city	Ground strike	8, including 2 children	7	–
Raqqah governorate					
9 November	Hishah	Air and ground strikes	23, including 6 women and 4 children	At least 30	Residential
19 November	Ba'th	Ground strike	7, including 1 child	Unknown	Residential
19 November	Abbarah	Air strike	1 woman and 1 child	–	–
21 November	Salihiyah	Air strike	9	–	Residential

Date	Location	Type of attack	Number of people killed, including women and children	Number of people injured	Character of site type
24 November	Quli	Air strike	7, including 4 women	13	Funeral procession
Damascus governorate					
10 November	Muhajirin	Ground strike	–	2 women	Residential
10 November	Muhajirin	Ground strike	–	7, including 3 children	School
10 November	Dahiyat al-Assad	Ground strike	1	3	Residential
18 November	Mazzah, Mazra'ah and Muhajirin	Ground strike	1 woman	3	Residential
24 November	Dahiyat al-Assad	Ground strike	6	–	Residential
Dar'a governorate					
23 November	Jasim	Air strike	7, including at least 1 child	At least 2 women	Residential and commercial
Dayr al-Zawr governorate					
23 November	Marrat	Air strike	2 women and 3 children	–	Residential
25 November	Hatla	Air strike	5, including 1 child	At least 3	Residential
27 November	Hamidiyah (Dayr al-Zawr city)	Air strike	23, including 3 women and 2 children	Several	Residential
28 November	Mustafeen (Dayr al-Zawr city)	Air strike	1 woman	6	–
Idlib governorate					
8 November	Khan Shaykhun	Air strike	1 woman and 5 children	Dozens	Residential
9 November	Mishmishan	Air strike	5 women and 2 children	–	Residential
13 November	Binnish	Air strike	–	6	Hospital
13 November	Khan Shaykhun	Air strike	1 woman and 4 children	–	–
Rif Dimashq governorate					
3 November	Duma	Air strike	3	Several	Residential
6 November	Duma	Air and ground strikes	5, including 1 child	–	Residential

Date	*Location*	*Type of attack*	*Number of people killed, including women and children*	*Number of people injured*	*Infrastructure or site type*
6 November	Hammuriyah	Ground strike	7, including 2 women and 4 children	Several	Residential
6 November	Harasta	Ground strike	6 children	27, including children	School
10 November	Duma	Air and ground strikes	8, including 2 women and 3 children	At least 4	Residential
10 November	Saqba	Air strike	2 women	Several	Residential
14 November	Buqayn	Sniper	1	–	–
14 November	Khan al-Shih	Air strike	–	3	Civil defence centre
17 November	Khan al-Shih	Ground strike	–	–	School
17 November	Duma	Air and ground strikes	6, including 1 woman and 3 children	–	Residential
18 November	Duma	Air and ground strikes	1 woman and 3 children	3	Residential
18 November	Jisrayn	Air strikes	1 woman and 3 children	–	Residential
20 November	Nashabiyah	Air and ground strikes	1 child	–	School
21 November	Harasta	Ground strikes	2, including 1 woman	–	Residential
24 November	Duma	Air strikes	1	Several	Residential
25 November	Duma	Ground strike	3, including 2 children	At least 1	Residential

Source: OHCHR.

[a] In line with resolution 2258 (2015), the present description of developments on the ground relates to the compliance with resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) by all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic. The information is provided without prejudice to the work of the Task Force on the Cessation of Hostilities of the International Syria Support Group. The list is not exhaustive.

13. The United States Department of Defense publicly confirmed that in November, the United States-led coalition carried out at least 321 strikes against ISIL targets in Aleppo, Dayr al-Zawr, Hasakah, Homs, Idlib and Raqqah governorates. The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation reported having conducted military operations in support of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, stressing that it had not carried out strikes within 10 km of the city of Aleppo since 18 October.

14. Primary, secondary and tertiary health-care services continued to experience severe gaps in performance and service delivery, owing to the extensive damage caused to health-care facilities, the rapid turnover in health staff and the lack of qualified professionals in specialized medical fields. Paediatric and maternal health-care services, including routine vaccinations, remained negatively affected, especially in Aleppo, Dar'a, Hama and Homs governorates and in the besieged areas of Rif Dimashq governorate.

15. In blatant disregard for the protected status of medical facilities under international humanitarian law, as further articulated by the Security Council in its resolution 2286 (2016), such facilities continued to be damaged or destroyed by fighting. The United Nations and health partners received credible reports of 26 attacks against medical facilities from 1 to 29 November. Hospitals were the most affected: 10 in Aleppo, 2 in Idlib, 1 in Hama and 2 in Rif Dimashq. Two primary health-care centres in Homs, a health-care centre in eastern Aleppo and an ambulatory service in western Aleppo were also struck. In addition, a medical warehouse in eastern Aleppo and three ambulances in eastern Ghutah, Hama and Kafr Batna were struck. The attacks resulted in multiple civilian casualties, including the deaths of at least 5 health workers and the injury of 15 health workers.

16. Educational facilities continued to be the subject of a number of attacks, with four verified attacks reported by the United Nations during the reporting period. On 6 November, a mortar struck the yard of the Rawdat Ajyal al-Mustaqbal kindergarten in Harasta, eastern Ghutah, Rif Dimashq governorate, killing 8 children and injuring 20 others. On 13 November, an air strike struck and destroyed the Atarib primary school in Atarib, Aleppo governorate. The school has 580 students, but was closed on the day of the attack owing to the ongoing bombing of the area. An 8-year-old girl in a house near the school reportedly died as a result of the attack. On 20 November, two rockets/mortars struck two schools in the western part of Aleppo city. One rocket struck the Furqan primary school, killing 8 pupils and injuring more than 20 others and a teacher. The second rocket/mortar struck the Sariyah Hassun school but did not explode. On 20 November, a mortar struck Qarma primary school in Nashabiyah, Rif Damashq governorate, killing 3 children and injuring 15 others. At least two female teachers were also injured. On 17 November, intense shelling continued to strike the Khan al-Shih camp. Beira school, an UNRWA school within the premises of the camp, sustained major damage as a result. The school was empty, however, and no casualties were reported.

17. On 22 November, a Kurdish journalist was reportedly abducted and beaten by members of Yekîneyên Parastina Gel (YPG) military intelligence in Hasakah city. The victim managed to escape from the abductors while they were arguing and reached the nearby village of Khama'a.

Humanitarian access

Box 3
Key points

(1) In November, four inter-agency convoys delivered assistance to 167,500 people in besieged and hard-to-reach locations, of a total of 904,500 people (19 per cent) requested under the inter-agency convoy plan.

(2) More than 20,000 medical items were removed from inter-agency convoys in November by Syrian authorities.

(3) The inter-agency convoy plan for December was submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 17 November. A response from the Ministry was received on 1 December. All locations were approved or partially approved, including eastern Aleppo city. In total, 798,200 of the 930,250 requested beneficiaries (85.8 per cent) were approved, and 132,050 beneficiaries (14.2 per cent) requested under the plan were not included in the approved number of beneficiaries.

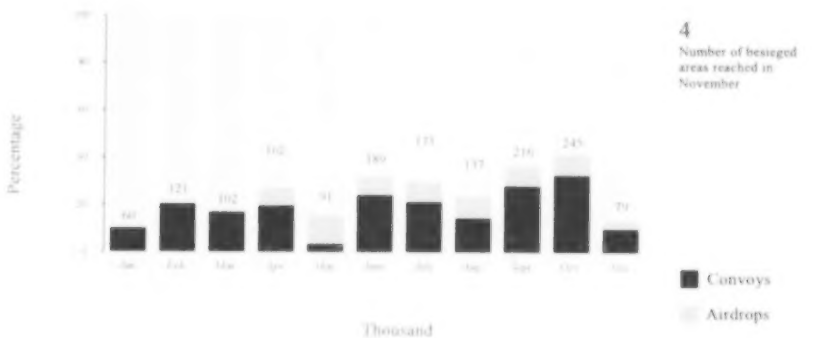
(4) During the reporting period, some 760,000 beneficiaries were assisted by the United Nations and its partners through cross-border operations from Turkey and Jordan.

18. The delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in need of assistance in the Syrian Arab Republic remained extremely challenging in many areas of the country as a result of active conflict, shifting conflict lines and deliberate restrictions on the movement of people and goods by the parties to the conflict.

19. Access to the millions of people living in besieged and hard-to-reach locations remained of critical concern. Throughout November, as a result of delays in the issuance of facilitation letters, requirements for additional security approvals above and beyond the two steps agreed with the Government in April, a lack of adherence to agreed protocols at checkpoints and insecurity, only four inter-agency convoys reached a total of 167,500 people in five besieged and hard-to-reach locations (see table 5). This total constitutes about 19 per cent of the total of 904,500 people to whom access had been requested under the plan. In addition, the United Nations provided assistance to some of these areas through single-agency convoys. Moreover, non-governmental organizations continued to provide medical, educational and protection services, as well as some support in other sectors, in hard-to-reach locations, under extremely challenging circumstances.

Figure II

United Nations inter-agency cross-line humanitarian operations: number of people reached each month in besieged areas, including via airdrops to the city of Dayr al-Zawr



20. Six inter-agency convoys could not proceed in November, despite having prior approval from the Syrian authorities. These include Wadi Barada on 9 November, Duma on 17 November, Rastan on 20 November and Madaya, Zabadani and Fu'ah/Kafraya on 27 November. For example, on 17 November, a convoy for 70,000 people to Duma, Rif Dimashq governorate, was aborted owing to the absence of approval at the last government checkpoint to proceed without dog searches and the unsealing of the trucks. The convoy had originally been planned for 15 November, but loading could not begin owing to the lack of the requisite facilitation letters from the Government. On 9 November, a convoy to the Wadi Barada area of Rif Dimashq governorate for 30,000 people was aborted after being unable to proceed past a government checkpoint. Convoys to other locations were held up for various reasons, including insecurity, lack of agreement on the routes to be taken or the estimates of the number of people in need and a lack of final green lights from the relevant authorities. In Madaya, two people died owing to a lack of available medical care.

21. Deliberate interference and restrictions by the parties to the conflict continued to hamper aid delivery. WFP continues to be unable to gain access to populations in need in ISIL-controlled areas of the country, given that all plans to deliver assistance to those areas have been suspended because of the inability to work independently and monitor activities. This is preventing WFP from reaching Raqqah governorate and most of Dayr al-Zawr governorate, as well as pockets of northern rural Aleppo governorate, southern rural Hasakah governorate and north-western rural Hama governorate. Meanwhile, in Hasakah governorate, WFP continued to face difficulties in obtaining dispatch approvals for some of the partners, which delayed the implementation of planned activities. Negotiations are ongoing with the relevant counterparts to overcome the remaining bottlenecks. Meanwhile, owing to security concerns on the ground, UNRWA has been unable to return to Yalda/Yarmouk since 25 May 2016.

Table 2
United Nations inter-agency cross-line humanitarian operations, 1 January-30 November 2016

22. The removal of life-saving medicines and medical supplies from humanitarian aid convoys continued throughout November. Life-saving and life-sustaining medical items sufficient for 22,284 treatments were removed from an inter-agency convoy to Rastan and a single-agency World Health Organization (WHO) convoy to Qadsayya. The treatments and supplies removed from convoys in November are shown in table 3. In addition, four inter-agency convoys could not proceed in November, preventing some 120,000 medical treatments from being delivered as planned. In addition, approval for 29 requests by WHO to deliver health supplies remains pending.

Table 3
Medical supplies removed from humanitarian convoys, November 2016

Location	*Number of treatments*	*Type of supplies*
Qadsayya	5 929	All types of kits and antiseptics (reduced in quantity); anti-decongestants, atropine and vials of analgesics (completely removed); support to 20 trauma cases
Rastan	16 335	Intravenous fluids, minor surgical kit, antiseptics, decongestants and injectable analgesics (completely removed); pneumonia kits A and B, inter-agency emergency health kits and bronchodilators (reduced in quantity); several modules from family doctor practice kit (eliminated); support to 175 trauma cases; multivitamins, pneumonia kit B, antiseptics and IV fluids

23. Under the United Nations inter-agency convoy plan for November, access was requested to 25 locations, including all besieged locations, with the aim of reaching 904,500 people. In its response on 27 October, the Syrian authorities approved access to 623,000 of the requested beneficiaries (68.9 per cent). A total of 281,500 beneficiaries (31.1 per cent) requested under the plan were rejected or not included in the approved number of beneficiaries. The authorities also requested that 20 other locations should be reached in November outside the plan.

24. On 17 November, the United Nations submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the inter-agency convoy plan for December, which comprised 21 requests to reach 930,250 people in need in besieged, hard-to-reach and priority cross-line areas. A response was expected by 29 November, in line with the agreed two-step approval procedures, but was received on 1 December. All requested locations were either fully or partially approved. In total, 798,200 of the 930,250 requested beneficiaries (85.8 per cent) were approved, while 132,050 beneficiaries (14.2 per cent) were not included in the approved number of beneficiaries. Of the 28 requested locations, 13 were approved in full (46.4 per cent) and 15 were approved with a lower number of beneficiaries (53.6 per cent). The authorities also requested that 38 other locations should be reached in December outside the plan.

25. The Nusaybin/Qamishli crossing in Hasakah governorate has been temporarily closed by the Turkish authorities because of security concerns since 27 December 2015. The governorate also remains largely inaccessible by road for United Nations agencies from within the Syrian Arab Republic owing to insecurity and the presence of ISIL members along the routes. The United Nations continues airlifts from Damascus to Qamishli airport to deliver multisectoral assistance, with some 190,000 people having been reached in November.

Humanitarian response

26. In November, United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners continued to reach millions of people in need through all modalities from within the Syrian Arab Republic and across borders (see table 4). In addition to the United Nations and its partners, non-governmental organizations continued to deliver valuable assistance to people in need in line with previous months. The Government continued to provide basic services to those areas under its control and in many areas beyond its control.

Table 4
Number of people reached by United Nations organizations, November 2016

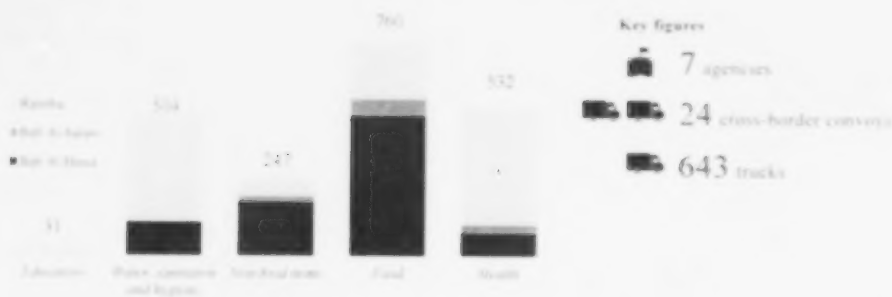
Organization	*People reached*
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	106 800
International Organization for Migration	28 013
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	499 933
United Nations Children's Fund	>3 500 000
United Nations Development Programme	1 017 722
United Nations Population Fund	226 597

[illegible]	[illegible]
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	450 000
World Food Programme	3 918 600
World Health Organization	837 356

27. Cross-border deliveries continued from Turkey and Jordan into the Syrian Arab Republic under the terms of resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015) (see fig. III). In line with those resolutions, the United Nations notified the Syrian authorities in advance of each shipment, including its content, destination and number of beneficiaries. The United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic continued its operations, monitoring 643 trucks used in 24 convoys in November, confirming the humanitarian nature of each and notifying the Syrian authorities after each shipment. The Mechanism continued to benefit from excellent cooperation with the Governments of Jordan and Turkey.

Figure III

Beneficiaries assisted by the United Nations and its partners per cluster through cross-border humanitarian deliveries, November 2016



28. The inter-agency convoys to the besieged and hard-to-reach locations listed in table 5 were completed in November. Moreover, between 10 April and the end of November, the United Nations completed 156 airdrops of food commodities and humanitarian assistance over the city of Dayr al-Zawr. In addition, the logistics cluster continued airlifts to Qamishli from Damascus, with more than 194 airlift rotations having been completed between 9 July and the end of November. During the reporting period, United Nations agencies also undertook single-agency deliveries to cross-line and hard-to-reach locations or reached those locations through their regular programmes.

Table 5
Inter-agency cross-line humanitarian convoys, November 2016

Date	Location	Planned/actual number of beneficiaries	Targeted people reached
20 November	Rastan, Homs	107 500	107 500
28 November	Fu'ah and Kafraya	20 000	20 000
28 November	Madaya	40 000	40 000
28 November	Zabadani	1 000	1 000

Note: All assistance provided was multisectoral in nature.

29. In November, a polio immunization and multi-antigen campaign was conducted from within the Syrian Arab Republic in all governorates. The campaign targeted 977,853 children under 5 years of five, mainly in hard-to-reach and besieged areas. The besieged areas of Fu'ah, Kafraya, Madaya, Mu'addamiyah al-Sham and the Yarmouk camp were reached with vaccines. Both Idlib and Raqqah (except Tall Abyad in Raqqah) could not be reached owing to the refusal of the local authorities. In addition, parts of Aleppo, Qunaytirah and Rif Damashq governorates could not be reached because of the security situation. Overall results from the campaign are still pending. Separately, some 350,000 children were vaccinated through cross-border operations in November 2016. The antigens used were bivalent oral polio, pentavalent and measles and rubella vaccines. For the cross-border component, parts of Aleppo, Dayr al-Zawr and Raqqah governorates could not be reached owing to insecurity and fighting, affecting the vaccination of some 780,000 children in total.

Humanitarian response plan funding

30. The status of the funding of the humanitarian response plan as at 30 November is shown in figure IV.

Figure IV
Humanitarian response plan funding, 30 November 2016

Visas and registrations

31. A total of 35 new requests for Syrian visas for United Nations staff members were submitted in November. A total of 26 requests were approved, comprising 18 submitted in October and 8 older applications, while 49 remain pending. Moreover, a total of 36 visa renewal requests were submitted. A total of 65 renewal applications were approved, 17 of which were submitted in November. No visa renewal requests were rejected in November. Some 25 visa renewal requests remain pending, 16 of which were submitted in November.

32. A total of 17 international non-governmental organizations are registered with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to operate in the country. Four more are completing registration. Those organizations continued to face administrative hurdles and restrictions that affect their ability to operate, including in gaining permission to undertake independent needs assessments. Some 194 national non-governmental organizations are authorized to operate in the Syrian Arab Republic, with 6 added in September.

Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and premises

33. On 13 November, UNRWA tragically lost its seventeenth staff member as a result of the conflict since 2012. Reports indicate that, along with the UNRWA staff member, two people were killed in the same air strike, which struck a mosque during morning prayers in the Khan al-Shih Palestine refugee camp.

34. On 17 November, intense shelling continued to strike the Khan al-Shih camp. Beira school, an UNRWA school within the premises of the camp, sustained major damage as a result. The school was empty, however, and no casualties were reported.

35. A total of 27 United Nations staff members, 26 of whom are UNRWA staff and 1 of whom is from the United Nations Development Programme, are still detained or missing. Since the beginning of the conflict, dozens of humanitarian workers have been killed, including 20 staff members of the United Nations, 54 staff members and volunteers of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and 8 staff members and volunteers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. In addition, many staff members of international and national non-governmental organizations are reported to have been killed.

III. Observations

36. The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate throughout the Syrian Arab Republic. The continuing conflict poses an immediate threat to millions of civilians every day, especially those under attack and those who cannot be reached. As I have previously stated, the conflict has also created a longer-term crisis, given that the bombing of schools, hospitals and other civilian installations by all parties to the conflict will continue to have a negative impact on the population for years to come. These developments are unfolding while the world watches, seemingly helpless to staunch the suffering. I call upon all parties to the conflict to consider where this will lead, as the deepening humanitarian tragedy only pushes the political solution that all have agreed is necessary further out of reach.

37. November witnessed an undeniable military acceleration and, in parallel, a serious deterioration of security for civilians. Nationwide, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has gained momentum as it seeks to retake areas, either through military force, as has been the case in eastern Aleppo, or through local agreements with communities, especially in Rif Damashq governorate. The humanitarian impact of such developments has been well documented. It is important, however, that military gains not be mistaken for the attainment of a so-called military solution. In no way will gains on the battlefield obviate the need for an inclusive and negotiated political settlement to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic. The only sustainable gains are those that are achieved through a settlement that addresses the legitimate grievances of the population.

38. It is for this reason that I continue to express my firm belief that there is no alternative to political accommodation between the parties to the conflict. Without such steps, tragedy will continue to prevail in the Syrian Arab Republic, with human, political, economic and social consequences in the country and beyond for generations to come. I and my Special Envoy will continue to engage with those actors with influence on the Syrian parties until the very last day of my tenure as Secretary-General in order to alleviate the suffering and seek an end to the conflict. Although the unfortunate reality may be that a resolution to the Syrian conflict may not occur before I leave office, the groundwork for a political solution has long been laid. It is now up to the parties to the conflict, the Member States that support them and the Security Council to take the appropriate steps necessary to finally end the suffering of the Syrian people.

Annex

Idlib Governorate
Kumlu
Reyhanli
Reyhanli
Merkez
Cilvegozu-Bab al-Hawa
Ad Dana
Antakya
HATAY
Harim
Halab (Aleppo)
Qourqeena
Salqum
Samandagi
Kafr Tajarim
Altinozu
TURKEY
Armanaz
Maaret Al Tamsrin
Teftnaz
Dreikish
Bennsh
ALEPPO
Yayladagi
Idlib
Janudiyeh
Sarmin
Al Jisr Ash Shughur
Saraqueb
Bedamah
Ariḥā
Mhambal
Abu Ad Duhur
AL LADHIQIYA
Ahsam
HAMĀH
Ma'arrat An Nu'Man
Kafr Nabul
Sinjār
Heish
Khan Shaykhun
At Tamani'ah
Border Crossing
Governorate Centre
International Boundary
Governorate Boundary
District Boundary
Sub-District Boundary
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